

December 29, 2015



The following was distributed to the listserv.

GED® student success story featured in local newspaper

Kudos to Jennifer Leedy and the adult education program in Johnson County for the great student success shared below, which originally appeared in *The Daily Independent*.

The student, Wayne Stambaugh, earned his GED® diploma – with honors in two areas – in just three weeks!

Do you have your own student success stories? Let your local news outlets know! If you need help crafting your story – or want additional tips related to getting your story told via local media – just let Missy Brownson know at Missy.Brownson@ky.gov or call 502-573-5114, ext.123.

Johnson farm bureau helps man get GED

Staff report

PAINTSVILLE A Facebook message literally changed Wayne Stambaugh's life. The 29-year-old Paintsville resident asked the question on Facebook one day as to why most jobs require a high school diploma or general education diploma. A friend responded with the question: "Why don't you have your GED."

For Stambaugh, it wasn't for a lack of determination. It was a lack of finances. "I never thought I couldn't pass the test," he said. "I thought I couldn't afford the test."

Enter Johnson County Adult Education and the support of the Johnson County Farm Bureau and its board of directors as well Treasurer Greg Meade and President Roger Murray. Stambaugh couldn't afford not to take the test.

"Someone told me to call Dr. (Jennifer) Leedy, and I did," said Stambaugh. Leedy is director of the adult education program on the Mayo campus of Big Sandy Community and Technical College. "I went in on a Monday and started on a Tuesday. I learned about the program from the Johnson County Farm Bureau and how they would help me cover the cost of taking the GED test."

Three weeks from the time he enrolled, he passed his GED, scoring honors — and in the 90th percentile — in two areas. He will pursue an automotive collision repair credential from Big Sandy Community and Technical College in January. "We work diligently to try to remove any barriers students face in obtaining their GED," said Leedy. "It is so humbling to work with students and help them navigate the waters of getting their GED. We couldn't do it without our staff and great community partners like the Johnson County Farm Bureau."

For Stambaugh, the sky is the limit.

"Without knowledge, we are nothing," he said. "I feel like I have something that no one can take away from me."